THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

NEWS

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Flamenco Master and Ensemble Perform on Feb. 15

"Paco Peña may well be the most universally respected flamenco guitarist working today."
– Los Angeles Times

CLEVELAND (Jan. 25, 2006) — The Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA) celebrates the return of one of the world's leading flamenco masters to North America in a program entitled, **Flamenco in Concert** by **Paco Peña Flamenco Dance Company** at the **Masonic Temple and Performing Arts Center** on **Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2006, at 7:30 p.m.** Performing regularly with his own hand-picked company of dancers, guitarists and singers in a succession of groundbreaking shows, Peña retains a lifelong commitment to presenting the best contemporary flamenco. This performance is part of the CMA's **VIVA! and Gala Around Town Series**.

Admission to the performance is $39; $34 for CMA members.

A virtuoso guitarist displaying the power and passion of this Spanish musical art form, Peña has transformed the genre while remaining true to the art form. A producer, composer, guitarist, dramatist and mentor, he has ingeniously built upon the deep foundations of flamenco. In "Flamenco in Concert," Pena captures the purest essence of the art form with an eclectic mixture of dancers, musicians and singers.

A native of the Andalucian city of Córdoba, music played a significant role in his childhood. As a result, Pena began learning the guitar from his brother at the age of six and quickly became an adept musician and a master of flamenco, touring with some of the largest groups in Spain. According to Peña, "Although the roots of flamenco are deeply imbedded in the soil and the culture of Andalucia, in Southern Spain, it nevertheless deals with emotional ingredients that are universal and timeless and, therefore, felt and understood by all human beings. Be it the lone voice of the flamenco singer, the sexuality and passion of the dancer or the unique texture of the guitar, this art form always has and continues to find mysterious paths into peoples' sensitivities all over the world."

His reputation as a soloist was first established in London where his recitals captivated the public's imagination. He has since performed in some of the grandest concert halls in the world, including Royal Albert Hall in London, Carnegie Hall in New York and the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam. Recently, he has collaborated with renowned artists including John Williams, Inti-Illimani, Leo Kotke and Eliot Fisk.

(more)

In 1981, he founded Centro Flamenco Paco Peña, a flamenco school in his native Córdoba and established a yearly festival entitled “Festival Internacional de la Guitarra” or International Guitar Festival. In addition, Rotterdam Conservatory in the Netherlands named him the first-ever Professor of Flamenco Guitar in 1985, an appointment in honor of his musical genius.

The Museum receives operating support from the Ohio Arts Council. Promotional support for VIVA! and Gala Around Town is provided by 90.3 WCPN Ideastream, WCLV 104.9 FM and Cleveland Free Times. Additional support provided by Collacott Foundation.

The Cleveland Museum of Art is one of America’s leading comprehensive Museums. Its permanent collection is world renowned for its quality and breadth, spanning 6,000 years. The Museum is a significant international forum for exhibitions, scholarship and art acquisitions. For more information on the Museum, its holdings, programs, services and events, call 1-888-CMA-0033 or visit www.Clevelandart.org

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